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Go fly a kite -- or at least design one

Furman University

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Go fly a kite — or at least design one

When art professors Ross McClain and Matt West heard about SMART Paper's Graphic Design Kite Contest last fall, they first thought it would be a great project for students.

"We saw it as a good opportunity for them to look at form and function in a different way," says McClain.

Then the teachers rethought. Maybe, they decided, this would be a good thing for *us* to try as well.

In the end, it was a very good thing.

Pooling their skills, McClain and West came up with a design that incorporated the brochures distributed by SMART Papers to advertise the contest. Turned out their work could fly, as they were named one of 10 grand prize winners from more than 500 entries.

The contest, sponsored by the Smithsonian Associates and the National Air and Space Museum, was held in conjunction with the 37th annual Smithsonian Kite Festival in Washington, D.C., March 20-23. The winning entries were displayed at the Smithsonian Institution's Arts and Industries Building.

The festival honors the first flight of Orville and Wilbur Wright and features

a variety of commemorative activities that take place on the National Mall. The winners were invited to attend the festival and were feted at the historic Hay-Adams Hotel on Lafayette Park across from the White House.

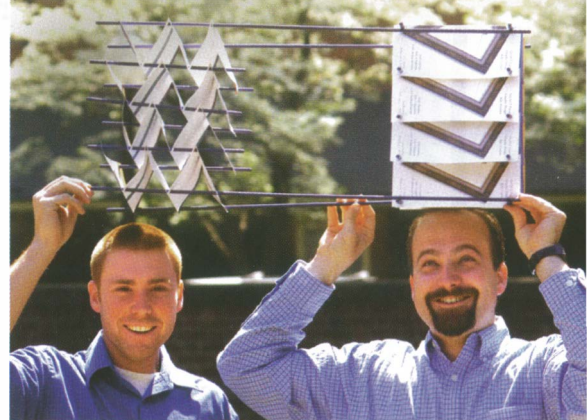
"It was an interesting time to be there, because the anti-war protesters were out in force," says McClain.

And the best thing about the contest? The kite didn't have to fly — it just had to look good. But McClain and West seem fairly convinced that theirs would fly. "It would at least make a couple of swoops in the air," says West.

McClain, who joined the Furman faculty in 1999, teaches design concepts, typography, art appreciation, digital graphics and computer art. West, who taught at Furman during the fall and winter, is a local sculptor.

All the contest winners can be found on the SMART Papers Web site at www.smartpapers.com.

In other art department news, Furman graduates from 2002 and 2003, respectively, received major honors in an awards competition sponsored by District III of the



Matt West (left) and Ross McClain show off their grand prize-winning kite.

Council for the Advancement and Support of Education.

Charlie Shipman '03 received an Award of Excellence for his design of the 2002-03 poster for "Mainstage," Furman's student talent showcases held in the University Center. Jermaine Johnson '02 won an Award of Merit for the poster and program, designed before he graduated, of the university's May 2002 symposium on "Race, Religion and the Liberal Arts."

Both were competing against entries submitted by graphic designers representing the wide variety of institutions — from small independent schools to comprehensive research universities — in the nine South-eastern states that comprise District III.

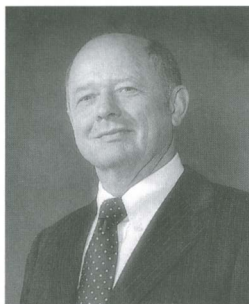
R.E. Hughes, 1917-2003

Robert Earle "Red" Hughes '38, a native of Greenville who went on to become a corporate and civic leader in his hometown, died April 23.

"He succeeded in achieving his number one goal: to make the world a better place. He did that through his projects, his donations and mainly through his family," said grandson Robert Hughes.

Hughes was a Coast Guard veteran of World War II. A real estate developer since his college days, he built shopping centers, subdivisions and industrial centers throughout Greenville and the Southeast.

His influence and counsel contributed to the work of many local and national boards, including the Greenville YMCA Foundation, the Urban Land Institute, the Urban Land Research Foundation and the Home Builders Association. He served on the boards of the Greenville Chamber of Commerce, the county planning commission and the Greenville Tech Foundation. As chair of the Appalachian Regional Development Commission in the 1960s he played a central role in the growth and



expansion of Upstate South Carolina.

A founding trustee of the Hollingsworth Funds, Hughes was a good friend of John D. Hollingsworth, the textile executive and former Furman student who left 45 percent of his substantial estate to the university at his death in 2000.

Former Furman president

John E. Johns said, "I've always felt that Red's personal friendship with John D. Hollingsworth influenced Mr. Hollingsworth to include Furman in his estate."

At Furman, Hughes served as chair of the Advisory Council and was twice elected to the board of trustees. He received the university's Distinguished Service Award and the Bell Tower Award. The Robert E. Hughes Professorship in Economics and Business Administration is named in his honor, and the new Greenville County library is named for him and his late wife, Mary Cary Hughes.

Memorials: Furman University, 3300 Poinsett Highway, Greenville, S.C. 29613, or Alzheimer's Association of Greenville, 301 University Ridge, Greenville, S.C. 29601.

Journal focuses on digital technology

The Associated Colleges of the South (ACS), a consortium of 16 selective liberal arts colleges and universities of which Furman is a member, has created an electronic journal that explores the social, political and economic impact of digital information technology.

The first issue of *Transformations: Liberal Arts in the Digital Age* was published on-line March 15. The journal will be published twice a year and will include essays and scholarly papers, student papers, and regular columns and features.

Thomas Allen, computer science chair at Furman, is managing editor of the journal and serves on its nine-member editorial board with departmental colleague Ken Abernethy, director of Furman's Rushing Center for Advanced Technology.

"The journal will examine the role of digital information technology and its impact on liberal arts education," Allen says. "We hope to address such issues as how this new technology affects the way we acquire and dispense knowledge, the impact it has on individuals and societies, and where the technology is going."

Transformations: Liberal Arts in the Digital Age can be accessed at <http://www.colleges.org/transformations>.